



ARTS EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN

FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION



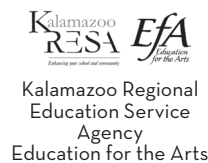
2012 RESEARCH REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATIONS



MICHIGAN ARTS EDUCATION SURVEY PARTNERS



MICHIGAN YOUTH ARTS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



MICHIGAN ARTS EDUCATION SURVEY SPONSORS



WELCOME!

On behalf of the Michigan Youth Arts, the Michigan Youth Arts Leadership Roundtable, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and ArtServe Michigan, we would like to thank you for sharing our dedication to the complete education of all children in Michigan.

It is this guiding principle that spawned a remarkable, statewide, interorganizational partnership to launch a landmark survey of arts education in Michigan - a gathering of baseline data to lay a framework to address the many challenges in arts education today and build collaborative solutions for the benefit of all Michigan's students.

Michigan Youth Arts works across organizations, artistic disciplines, and educational affiliations to leverage the strength of our combined perspectives and efforts and provide a unified voice for arts education throughout Michigan. We understand that the economic challenges we face in Michigan are a reality we all have to work within. This reality has united us to inform the greater public on the issues facing arts education and the opportunities that lay before us.

The findings from this comprehensive survey of school-building-level data on arts education from across the state inform the recommendations in this report. These recommendations are uttered with one voice, shared by all the partners listed here, and serve as a road map to grow arts education in Michigan and prepare our students to think creatively, to innovate, to work with discipline and attention to craft - to achieve - in the 21st century.

We hope that you will join us as we strive to make high-quality, consistent, equitable, standards-based arts education a reality for all students - re-imagining how Michiganders are prepared for life, post-secondary learning and the workplace.

Yours in the arts,



Kim Dabbs
Executive Director
Michigan Youth Arts



MICHIGAN ARTS EDUCATION SURVEY

A LANDMARK STUDY

In the fall of 2011, Quadrant Arts Education Research, in partnership with Michigan Youth Arts, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Department of Education, and ArtServe Michigan, began a statewide study of arts education in Michigan schools. The project was designed to create a never-before-available picture of arts education in Michigan and institute baseline information for tracking and measuring future progress. This landmark study provides essential data on student access, teacher training, assessment and accountability in arts education in K-12 schools in Michigan. The data provides the groundwork to drive future arts education policy decisions that effect all Michigan students.

The principals of 4163 schools, including 718 private and 293 charter schools, were asked to complete an online survey detailing numerous building-level specifics on arts education in their schools, including:

- Types of arts courses (curricular and extracurricular) offered, by grade level (for music, visual arts, theater, and dance);
- Number of students enrolled in arts courses;
- Number of hours in a year dedicated to arts education, by arts discipline;
- Certification level of teachers providing arts education;
- Non-salary budgets allocated to arts education;
- Professional development offerings to art and general classroom teachers;
- Policies in place regarding arts education (adoption of standards, high school arts graduation requirements, etc.).

A total of 826 schools completed a questionnaire - a 20% response rate. A total of 460,066 students, or 30% the total student population, were represented by responding schools.



AREAS OF FOCUS

The findings in this report are grouped by key areas that concentrate on separate but interconnected aspects vital to successful arts education.

Student Access

Equitable access to high-quality, consistent, sequential, standards-based arts education for all students in grades pre-K through 12. The principle of equitable student access implies every K-12 student in Michigan has arts education as *part of the core curriculum*.

Professional Preparation and Development

Equitable, consistent, high-quality pre-service and in-service training in arts education for elementary, secondary, and specialist teachers. The principle of consistent professional preparation and development ensures students have access to highly-qualified arts specialists, and that educators receive appropriate training to meet federal and state mandates in arts education.

Accountability

An authentic, appropriate, and compulsory presence for the visual and performing arts in state and district academic accountability systems. Arts education accountability means that every school has robust arts education courses, the means to evaluate and improve them, and the budget to maintain them.



MICHIGAN ARTS EDUCATION SURVEY

KEY FINDINGS

93% of high schools and 94% of elementary and 92% middle schools provide arts instruction in at least one arts course.

108,000 students attend school each day without arts education.

Annual spending for curricular support of arts education averages only \$4.39 per pupil in high school and only \$1.67 per pupil in elementary school - just 2.5 cents a day in high school and less than a penny a day in elementary school.

33% of schools receive outside dollars to support arts education.

Only 11% of elementary schools offer at least one course in theatre; only 6% of middle schools offer at least one course in dance.

12% of high schools do not meet the state graduation requirement of one credit in the arts.

13% of schools do not include the arts equally when calculating students' grade point averages.

High school students with higher levels of arts education perform better on the ACT and MME state exams across all socioeconomic categories.

45% of schools cited transportation costs as a significant barrier to arts-related field trips.



STUDENT ACCESS

108,000 students in Michigan attend schools without any arts education courses.

WHAT WE KNOW

Most Michigan students have at least some arts classes in their schools - only 6% of elementary schools and 8% of middle and high schools have no arts courses at all. But 20% of all schools offer only one artistic discipline. High schools are the most likely to offer the most disciplines, but only 8% of them offer all four.

12% of Michigan high schools do not offer even the required one credit in the arts needed to graduate under the Michigan Merit Curriculum guidelines.

32% of elementary schools provide less than one hour a week of instruction in the arts.

108,000 students in Michigan attend schools without any arts education courses.

35-40% of schools have no certified arts specialists on staff in music or visual art. 82-96% of schools have no certified arts specialists in dance or theatre.

A majority of schools that offer arts courses do have designed and dedicated discipline-specific facilities in which to teach, but 15% of schools don't have appropriate space for music or visual art, and 30-40% of schools don't have appropriate space for dance or theatre.

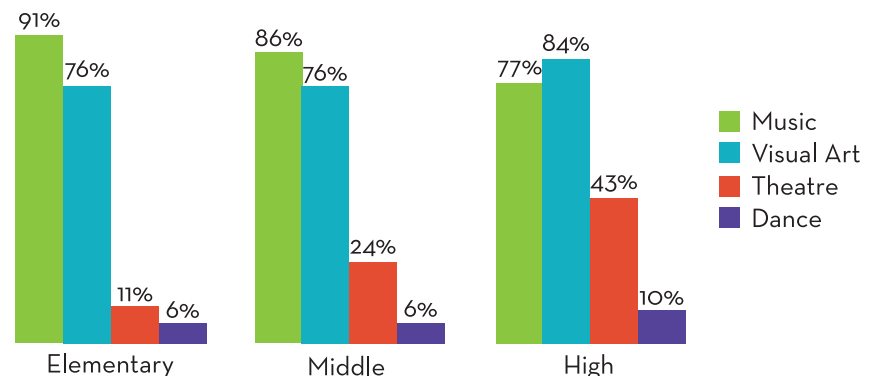
Annual spending for curricular support of arts education averages only \$4.39 per pupil in high school and only \$1.67 per pupil in elementary school - just 2.5 cents a day in high school and less than a penny a day in elementary school.

39% of schools reported using outside funding sources to support arts instruction.

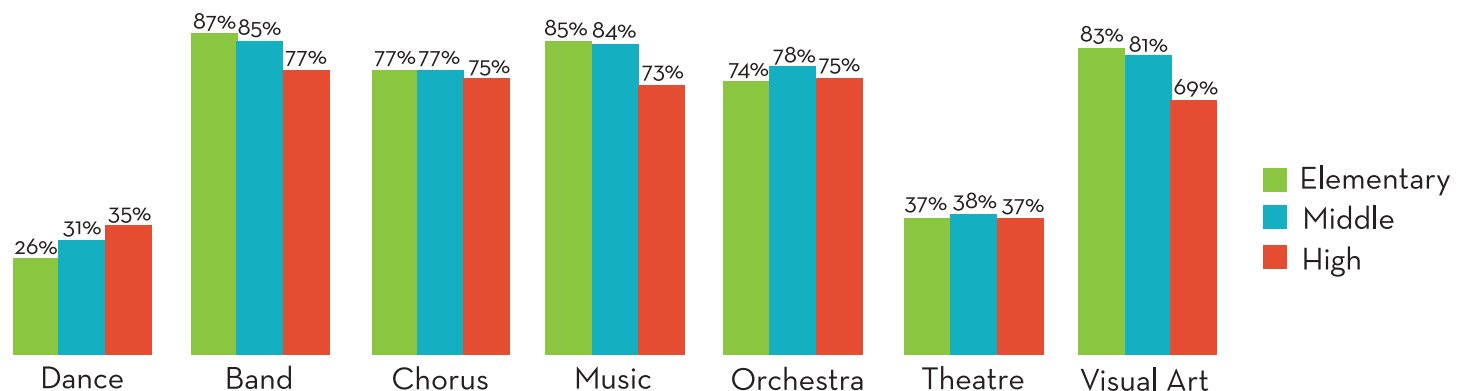
92% of schools have no arts coordinator.

45% of schools cited the cost of transportation as a major barrier to arts-related field trips.

Percent of schools offering at least one arts course



Percent of schools with a certified arts specialist as the primary instructor



RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide Access for All Students

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan State Board of Education, in partnership with other statewide organizations, implement strategies to reduce the number of students without access to arts education from over 100,000 to zero.

Identify Schools in Need

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan State Board of Education identify schools where arts instruction is unavailable or very limited and support policies and resources that restore arts education in those schools.

Develop Arts Education Funding Standards

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education develop a recommended level of funding to support arts instruction in public schools.

Provide Access to All Arts Disciplines

We recommend schools provide access to courses in music, dance, theatre and visual art.

Employ Arts Coordinators

We recommend all districts employ arts coordinators, with teaching certification in an arts discipline, to oversee curriculum implementation, alignment of programs between schools, and coordination of personnel and resources.

Develop Appropriate Facilities

We recommend that communities require new school buildings and additions to include appropriate physical facilities to support arts instruction.

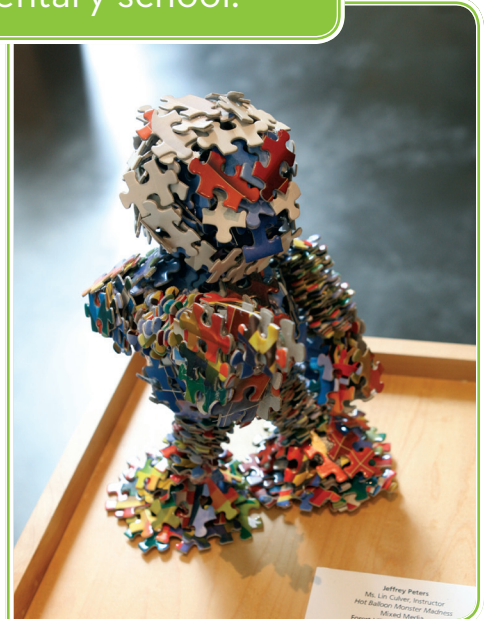
Remove Barriers to Field Trips

We recommend Michigan arts education organizations work to reduce the barrier of transportation costs for school arts-related field trips.

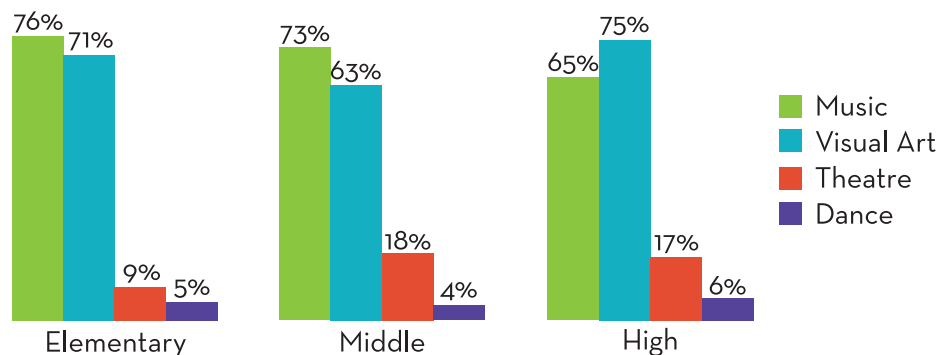
Fund Arts Education

We recommend that Michigan foundations and grantmakers target arts education as a priority in funding initiatives.

Annual spending for curricular support of arts education averages only \$4.39 per pupil in high school and only \$1.67 per pupil in elementary school - just 2.5 cents a day in high school and less than a penny a day in elementary school.



Percent of schools with at least one certified arts teacher



PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION & DEVELOPMENT

WHAT WE KNOW

Despite the fact that many arts courses are not being taught by certified arts specialists, only 17% of regular classroom teachers and only 13% of classroom teachers teaching the arts receive professional development in arts education.

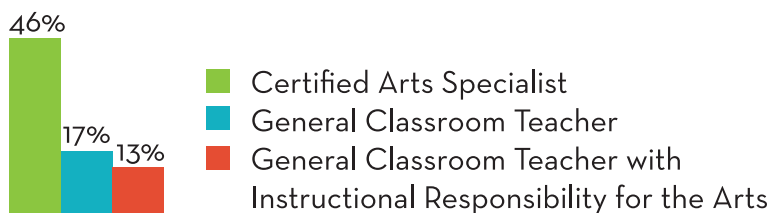
Only 46% of certified arts specialists receive professional development in arts education.

39% of teachers do not receive continuing education credits for arts education professional development.

47% of teachers do not receive release time for arts education professional development.

Only 48% of school districts host districtwide professional development for arts teachers or planning meetings for arts staff.

Types of Teachers Afforded Professional Development in Arts Education



Only 46% of certified arts specialists receive professional development in arts education.



Only 13% of classroom teachers teaching arts courses receive professional development in arts education.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION & DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase Professional Development for Administrators

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education work with partner organizations to increase professional development in arts education for school administrators.

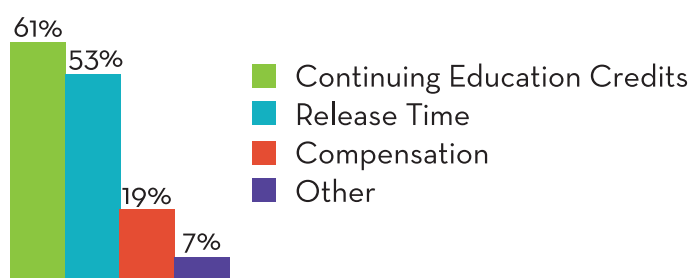
Expand Professional Development for Educators

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs work with partner organizations to expand professional development in the arts for arts educators.

Identify Best Practices & Connect Schools Statewide

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education work with partner organizations to identify model schools in the arts and to develop a best practices guide to assist schools in creating strong arts education programs. We further recommend the creation of an interschool arts education network where teachers and administrators from challenged schools can connect with and learn from model schools.

Professional Development Incentives for Educators



Only 48% of school districts host professional development for arts teachers or planning meetings for arts staff.



ACCOUNTABILITY

WHAT WE KNOW

While elementary schools boast 70% student participation in the arts, participation dwindles to 30% or less in high school.

37% of schools have not aligned their curriculum with the Michigan Arts Education Standards adopted in 1998.

31% of schools have not updated their curriculum to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum Guidelines for the Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts adopted in 2006.

53% of schools have not updated their arts education plans at all.

To report student progress against state arts standards, 64% of schools use teacher-developed assessments, 17% of schools use district-developed assessments, and 19% of schools report no assessment.

13% of schools do not weight arts education grades equally with grades in other academic areas when calculating grade point averages.

35% of schools do not grant honors arts courses equal weight with other honors courses when calculating grade point averages.

37% of schools have not aligned their curriculum with state arts education standards adopted in 1998.



53% of schools have not updated their arts education plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Require Accountability

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education require schools to report annually on 1) student access to arts courses; 2) the level of student participation in the arts; 3) the number and certification status of educators providing arts instruction and course/class assignments; and 4) how arts education standards are being met. We further recommend providing incentives for school improvement and recognition for outstanding programs.

Define Certification Standards

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education define standards of licensure for all arts disciplines, and work with Michigan universities to align those standards with degree programs.

Include Arts in Strategic Plans

We recommend school districts include visual and performing arts in strategic plans and ensure that programs meet Michigan standards.

Require Arts for College Admission

We recommend that Michigan colleges and universities include visual and performing arts coursework in high school GPA calculations, and require the equivalent of one year of high school arts instruction for admission.

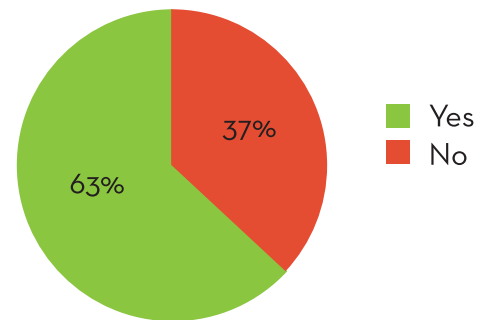
Weight Courses Equally

We recommend school districts weight arts courses equally with non-arts courses in calculating grade point averages, and, in schools where non-arts honors courses receive added weight, honors arts courses do also.

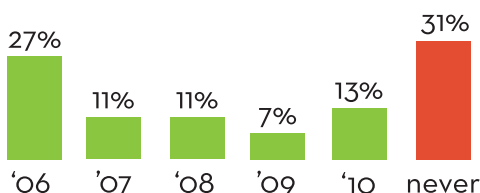
Develop Arts Education Assessment System

We recommend the Michigan Department of Education work with partner organizations to develop, pilot and implement a statewide assessment system to evaluate 1) teacher training and 2) student skills acquisition in all arts disciplines.

Schools That Have an Arts Curriculum Aligned with the Michigan Arts Standards (adopted in 1998).



Year Schools Updated to Michigan Merit Curriculum Guidelines for the Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (adopted in 2006)



ARTS EDUCATION INDEX & MODEL SCHOOLS

DEVELOPING THE ARTS EDUCATION INDEX

In the measurement of arts education in the Michigan public schools, the project team wanted to account for the diverse manifestations of arts education. To this end, an arts education “index” was calculated for each participating school. The index score is composed of up to 24 different components. They include quantitative measures of:

Courses & Breadth of Arts Offerings

Student Participation

Teachers & Instruction

Facilities & Resources

Policies & Professional Development

Supervision & Assessment

The index is an arithmetic combination of scores related to survey responses on the various components of arts education in each school. The index scores are standardized and have a possible range from 0 to 100, where 0 signifies no attempt at all at arts education in the school, and 100 indicates a complete effort in every aspect of arts education measured in the study.

Michigan school scores ranged from 0 to 83, with an average around 33.

TEST SCORES AND DROPOUT RATES

Using the index score to build multivariate statistical models, researchers found schools with higher Arts Education Index scores also had higher scores on the following standardized tests:

ACT Overall

ACT English

ACT Math

ACT Reading

MME Science

MME Writing

MME Math

MME Reading

MME Social Studies

Researchers also found a significant correlation between high Arts Education Index scores and low dropout rates - schools with higher Arts Education Index scores had fewer dropouts than those with lower indices.

These correlations existed regardless of the socioeconomic status of the students - even among poorer schools, those with higher indices showed higher test scores and lower dropout rates.

MODEL SCHOOLS IN THE ARTS

The ultimate goal of the Michigan Arts Education Survey is to improve arts education in the state. Michigan Youth Arts and its statewide partners will use the Arts Education Index to identify potential Model Schools in the Arts. The team will work with exemplary schools to discover what makes their programs thrive and create a network to share their knowledge with other schools in Michigan. Criteria for selecting model schools will almost certainly include:

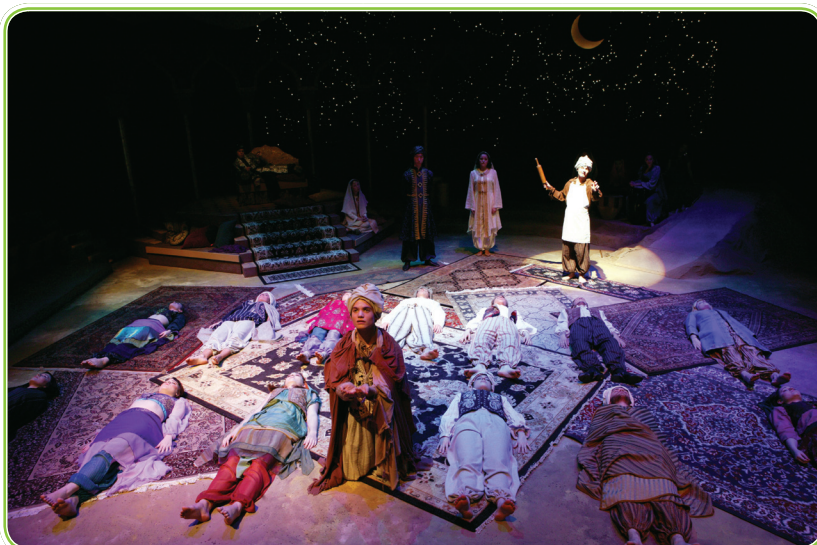
Providing instruction in all four arts disciplines and meeting state curriculum and graduation guidelines and requirements.

Employing a district-based arts supervisor with arts certification to coordinate arts programs.

Fostering support for the arts from the district and building level, allocating money for arts programs in the budget.

Encouraging a high level of collaboration and respect between all members of the visual and performing arts staff.

Embracing flexibility to overcome obstacles and adjust to the ever-changing educational landscape.



THE FUTURE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN

The 21st century demands that learners of all ages be well-educated, well-rounded thinkers and problem solvers. A complete education, including rigorous training in the arts, develops students' capacity to think critically, collaborate, communicate and innovate - essential skills for success in today's rapidly changing world. Arts education must flourish as part of the core curriculum to ensure that Michigan's children have the readiness to succeed in school and beyond the classroom.

Following the recommendations in this report will establish a solid foundation for arts education in Michigan; provide access for every student to standards-based, sequential arts education in music, dance, theatre and visual art; ensure that certified arts specialists are upholding exacting standards of discipline and craft; and assist communities to support these vital programs.

Arts education is not a luxury. It is a necessary component of the education of the whole child. Arts education improves motivation, concentration, discipline and teamwork. Students actively participating in arts education show improved test scores, and lower dropout rates and at-risk behaviors.

There is work to be done. Community leaders, policy-makers, school administrators and others must provide leadership to ensure the future of arts education in Michigan. The recommendations in this report will not be met simply because they are worthwhile, or even vital. They will only be met when the citizens of Michigan demand it. They will only be met when community leaders cannot escape the certain knowledge that their constituents refuse to consign their children to a state without a robust arts education system.



MICHIGAN ARTS EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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Fund Arts Education

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COMMISSIONED BY MICHIGAN YOUTH ARTS



About Michigan Youth Arts

Michigan Youth Arts is an alliance that develops, recognizes and advocates excellence in arts education for all. Its partners include statewide education organizations across artistic disciplines: creative writing, dance, instrumental music, media arts, music composition, theatre, visual arts, and vocal music. The strength of our combined efforts enables us to produce excellent educational opportunities for students, and to advocate for best practices in, and equal access to, arts education throughout Michigan.

Michigan Youth Arts Festival

The Michigan Youth Arts Festival is a comprehensive arts spectacular, culminating a nine-month search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools. More than 250,000 students across the state are involved in the selection process that results in nearly 1,000 being invited to participate in the annual three-day event. At the Festival, exceptional students in the arts gather to explore, celebrate, and showcase their talent across artistic disciplines. The May 2012 Festival marked the 50th anniversary of this extraordinary annual event. Each year the Festival features student exhibitions and performances in dance, theatre, instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, music composition, and film, as well as the publication of a volume of creative writing.

Arts Expo College Fair

Bringing together over 40 college and university arts programs from across the nation, the Arts Expo provides high school students the opportunity to explore higher education opportunities in the arts each October at the Lansing Center.

Grantmaking

Michigan Youth Arts, on behalf of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Ovation and Comcast, awards Arts & Culture Trek grants to cover the transportation cost of arts- and culture-related field trips for K-12 students. The program supports field trips for students in schools across the state.

Advocacy, Policy and Leadership

The Michigan Youth Arts Leadership Roundtable seeks to open the lines of communication between statewide organizations and various disciplines, and to discuss advocacy initiatives relevant to the arts education community as a whole. The educational leaders who serve on the Leadership Roundtable are committed to working together to develop this network and provide a forum for participating organizations to share arts education challenges and best practices, within and across disciplines. Michigan Youth Arts also brings together arts education associations and civic leaders in an annual policy forum to address issues in arts education throughout the state.

Contact

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To download a copy of the complete research findings, visit michiganyoutharts.org.

